

Covid Narrative February 1, 2021

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said Phase 2 of the state vaccination program started today (Feb. 1). Those, who are age 75 and older, can get an appointment by visiting the interactive Covid map on the state website (mass.gov/covid). Residents should check back frequently as new vaccination sites are being added on an ongoing basis.

A regional vaccination site is going to be opened soon at the Marshfield fairgrounds, which will be available to Scituate residents. Boudreau said the town will let residents know as soon as that site opens up. Volunteers, who can help with intake and directions at the site, are needed. Visit marshfield-ma.gov and click on the red box, if you can help out.

Mr. Boudreau said Scituate is expecting a small number of doses (less than 100) in two weeks. Even to sign up for those, it's necessary to register through the state Covid map.

If a resident does not have a computer or is unable to signup, call the Senior Center at 781-545-8722. The state is also going to have a vaccine hotline for those having trouble navigating the website.

Mr. Boudreau said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is expected to get emergency approval this month. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires no special handling and only one dose is needed.

Mr. Boudreau said the town had 52 new Covid cases over the past week; that is down from 57 the previous week. The town's positivity rate is 5.73 percent over the last 14 days.

Real estate taxes are due today (Feb. 1) and can be dropped off at Town Hall through the mail slot in the front door. Town Hall is open by appointment only. The library is open for drop-offs and pick-ups only.

There is a winter storm warning through Tuesday (Feb. 2) afternoon. It is expected that the heavy snow will change to rain overnight. The wind from the

northeast will be steady at 30 to 35 mph with gusts over 50 mph. The town expects scattered outages and minor-to-moderate coastal flooding.

Mr. Boudreau asked everyone to stay well, stay safe if they can, stay home.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said there have been 33 Covid cases in the schools over the past 14 days with 10 during the past week for a total of 129 to date.

He gave a Sailor Shoutout to the staff and students at Wampatuck Elementary School for continuing an 11-year tradition of reading for an hour for the Lend a Hand Campaign that has raised \$141,000.

He noted that the schools, working closely with state education officials, offer free, rapid Covid testing for those with symptoms. Results are available in 15 minutes, allowing the schools to take any necessary steps. He thanked the school nurse leaders and nurses for their vigilance with administering this program.

Schools were on early release (Feb. 1) due to the weather. Those elementary students on the afternoon program stayed home and learned remotely. All afternoon activities were cancelled.

At 9 a.m. Saturday (Feb. 6), the school department is hosting a budget workshop that is available for remote participation (scituate.k12.ma.us).